

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

P.O. Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 924-1800 phone, 924-1801 fax
commdev@mono.ca.gov

P.O. Box 8
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-5420 phone, 932-5431 fax
www.monocounty.ca.gov

**Monday, December 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Town / County Conference Room
Mammoth Lakes, CA**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Hap Hazard, Chair
Kirk Stapp, Vice Chair
Tom Farnetti, Supervisor
Rob Clark, TOML Alternate
Bill Reid, Supervisor
Wendy Sugimura, Councilman

Staff Present

Scott Burns, Director
Ray Jarvis, Co-Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County
Peter Bernasconi, TOML
Jennifer Hansen, Secretary

Caltrans

Brad Mettam
Jeremy Milos
Cedrik Zemitis
Tom Meyers

Other

Monicka Watterson, ESTA
Phil McGuire, Interim Executive Director, ESTA

Agenda items may not have been taken in order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hazard at 9:03 and Alternate Commission Clark led the pledge of allegiance.

1) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10 and OCTOBER 15

- a) Commissioner Stapp motioned to approve the September 10th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reid. Abstained by Commission Sugimura. Passed 5-1. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, and Reid.
- b) Commissioner Sugimura motioned to approve the October 15th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Stapp. Abstained by Commissioner Alternate Clark and Commissioner Reid. Passed 4-2. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Sugimura, Farnetti.

3) TRANSIT

a) **Section 5311 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Program**

Action: Approved \$54,604 for Regional Program of Projects (POP) for Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) operating assistance.

Ms. Watterson reported that this is the yearly 5311 apportionment per county money to be programmed through the LTC. The money goes to ESTA and then is filtered for operations. There is a grant application to receive the funds which will be brought to a future LTC meeting. The money comes in the year after it is awarded and the amounts do fluctuate. The funds are pretty solid and continuing to increase even though funds like the LTF and STA are decreasing. Commissioner Stapp motioned to approve \$54,604 for Regional Program of Projects (POP) for ESTA's operating assistance. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, Reid and Sugimura.

b) **FTA Section 5311 (f) Capital Grant for FY 2006-07**

Action: Authorized signature on Certifications and Assurances.

This is a request to authorize the LTC Executive Director's signature on the Certifications and Assurances for FTA Section 5311 (f) Capital Grant for the purchase of one Bluebird Xcel-102 bus for the use on the CREST route in the amount of \$23,129.50. The LTC has previously approved the Certifications and Assurances for this grant in the amount of \$11,050. An additional \$12,079.50 in match monies is required to meet the funding requirements. ESTA will use their reserve money for the \$12,079.50 in match monies. The Certifications and Assurances states that the LTC will pay the \$11,050 which has already been allocated. The total cost for the bus is \$225,852 with most of the funds coming from the Federal government. The bus will be the same bus that Mammoth Mountain uses which runs on bio-diesel fuel. The transition from Inyo Mono Transit to the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority created the need for ESTA to resubmit the grant application with the new name for administrative purposes. The new Certifications and Assurances reflect ESTA as the applicant and the additional funds needed. Commissioner Farnetti motioned to approve the LTC Executive Director's signature on the Certificates and Assurances. Seconded by Commissioner Stapp. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, Reid and Sugimura.

c) **FTA Section 5311 (f) Capital Grant FY 2007-08**

Action: Authorized signature on Certifications and Assurances.

This is a request to authorize the LTC Executive Director's signature on the Certifications and Assurances for FTA Section 5311 (f) grant for the operation of the CREST route in the amount of \$88,426.50. The LTC has previously approved the Certifications and Assurances for this grant. The new Certifications and Assurances reflect Eastern Sierra Transit Authority as the applicant. Commissioner Reid motioned to approve the LTC Executive Director's signature on the Certificates and Assurances. Seconded by Commissioner Farnetti. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, Reid and Sugimura.

d) **Proposition 1B – PTMISEA Funds**

Action: Directed staff to coordinate with Inyo County LTC to apply for \$110,170 (Mono) and \$182,025 (Inyo) for ESTA capital projects from the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Account.

Ms. Watterson reported that this is capital money granted through the last election. ESTA is waiting for the guidelines to be put together. Once the guidelines are formed, the money is awarded to the entities receiving STA money which includes Inyo and Mono counties. One entity needs to be the lead agency and Inyo County has agreed to take the lead. Inyo will be filling out the application in conjunction with Mono County. The deadline for the application is December 28th. With this money, ESTA would like to replace six to seven buses. Mr. Mettam requested that we move forward with this action by allowing the LTC Executive Director to sign the application. Commissioner Stapp moved to approve the signature of the LTC Executive Director on the application for PTMISEA Funds. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, Reid and Sugimura.

e) **ESTA Proposed Fare Increase**

Action: Informational

The ESTA Board of Directors has scheduled a public hearing on December 14th to receive comments on the proposed fare adjustments to the public bus routes and services. The last fare adjustment was in 1998 through Inyo Mono Transit. The highest fare adjustment will be the CREST route due to the distance traveled. The public feedback thus far has been non-existent. Around seven comments have been received. The new fares are anticipated to take effect on January 1st pending what happens at the public hearing. It was questioned whether the increase will impact the match for fare box? With the increase in fares, it should be easier to meet the fare box requirement of 10%. It was suggested to maintain the match better by increasing the fares more frequently and less extravagantly for the customer's sake as we try to increase ridership. ESTA believes things will transition better with fare increases now that they are their own entity. This is the year relationship building will take place between ESTA and the LTC.

4) ADMINISTRATION

a) **Overall Work Program**

Action: Received status report and provided any desired direction to staff.

The current Overall Work Program (OWP) for FY 2007-08 was adopted in June of 2007. The OWP establishes regional transportation planning priorities for LTC funding and serves as the Commission's annual budget for RPA and PPM funds. At the January LTC meeting, an amendment to the OWP will be presented due to shifting needs and priorities of the Town and County.

b) **California Transportation Commission (CTC)**

Action: Authorized Chair's signature on letter supporting reappointment of Kirk Lindsey to the California Transportation Commission.

Kirk Lindsey has been a big part as to what we do as a Commission. He has been very supportive of rural counties and issues. He is a liaison for the Rural Counties Task Force – Road Rehabilitation Program. The Rural Counties Task Force also supports the reappointment of Mr. Lindsey. Commissioner Sugimura moved to approve the Chair's signature on the letter supporting the reappointment of Kirk Lindsey to the CTC. Seconded by Commissioner Reid. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Clark, Farnetti, Reid and Sugimura.

5) CALTRANS

a) **LTC/ESTA Relationship: State Funding Overview**

Action: Informational.

Mr. Mettam presented a packet of information showing how the different pots of money are spent and moved around in transportation funding. A graph was presented on the relationship between the LTC and ESTA in regards to these funds. This is a new relationship with the LTC and ESTA so the funds on the graph will start to move around as each entities role are more clearly defined. A presentation will be made on Friday, December 14th detailing the program cycles, transportation funding – STIP, TDA, 5311. This presentation will give an overall picture of how transportation funding works.

b) **Update on activities in Mono County**

Action: Updated on information from National, State, and Local resources that relate to activities in Mono County.

Mr. Mettam reported that all passes are now closed. He also reported on the Mono Basin Gaz Ex project – on December 7th the concrete was poured for the first exploder. The tank sheds are also complete. The rest of the projects completion is dependent on the weather. If the weather holds out, this project should be finished before Christmas. It was also reported that the overlay for 203 will begin in the summer of 2008 minus the roundabout by North Village. It was brought

up that these projects generally take place during the peak tourist time. Caltrans reported that getting the peak paving temperatures usually takes place toward the end of their fiscal year. They are working on spreading out more of their projects as permitted. The roundabout will possibly be delayed until 2011. A Caltrans representative will be at the December 19th Town Council meeting to discuss this further. This project might possibly be tacked onto another project. Caltrans was complimented on the post office driveway improvement in Coleville and what a difference it has made.

6) STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

a) 2008 STIP/RTIP update

Action: Received update from staff and Caltrans regarding the new five year cycle.

The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funds local and regional transportation projects. This is a new five year funding cycle for transportation projects including transit, transportation enhancements and road rehabilitation. At the January meeting, a draft RTIP will be presented with the state, town and county projects. It looks like the funds will be for \$6 million for the five year cycle with the money being available around year three of the cycle. The RTIP will be adopted in February. Mr. Mettam brought to the Commission's attention that the monetary estimates can change throughout the cycle and it is revisited every two years to show where the money is going. Mr. Burns stated that there are some technical adjustments to be made to the Regional Transportation Plan and that is why the draft will be presented at the January meeting.

b) High Point Curve Correction Workshop

Action: Received update and provide any desired direction to staff.

This is an MOU project. A handout was given referencing the location of the curve and also serves as a fact sheet. The purpose of this project is to improve safety. It has been identified as a hot spot. The accident history shows that 2/3 of the accidents happen on dry roads vs. icy roads. Some improvements have already been made such as the blinking speed limit sign, chevrons, and rumble strips. Since these improvements have been made, the accident rate has gone down and there have been no fatal accidents. Other alternatives to this project include straightening the roadway by laying back the slopes providing better sight distance; adding wider shoulders for more move ability; constructing a 560 foot bridge at the curve. The preferred alternative would be for no bridge. A bridge doesn't go with the feel of the area, the ice is bad in that area, and technically it would be too hard to put a bridge in that area. The best alternative will be one that has the lowest impact on the community.

This is an expensive project due to the excavation that needs to take place. There is quite a bit of hillside to be taken out and blasted; there will be no easy way to divert the traffic; and there will be road closures for short bursts of time. Caltrans could try for longer road closures during the middle of the day which could reduce the costs of the project. Caltrans is also working with the water board to move the dates to work. Now the dates are May – October. They want to blast the hillside before fishing season starts. They will need a variance from Lahontan.

So far, \$1.3 million has been programmed with a \$2.3 million estimated for design. Some of the funding does come from the STIP but has not been discussed for the Highpoint project.

Mr. Mettam would like some direction and input from the Commission on whether or not to proceed with this project. Should Caltrans scale back the project or continue on the full project? The Commission feels they need more time to assess this project. The Commission would like to get the affected communities opinion as the project will be taking place during the peak tourist travel time and what the economic impact will be. The Commission would like until January to make a decision on the future of this project. Mr. Mettam agreed the communities should be involved and encourages that everyone discusses their concerns and not the details of the project. Caltrans representatives will be happy to attend community meetings to explain the details. Follow-up on this item will be given at the January meeting.

c) **Quarterly update on state projects in Mono County**

Action: Received quarterly update from Caltrans regarding current status of state LTC projects.

Tom Meyers reported on the following Caltrans projects: Manzanar Four-Lane; Independence Four-Lane; Blackrock Four-Lane; Conway Ranch Passing Lane; Conway Vista Cut; Rock Creek CAPM; North Conway CAPM; North Conway Shoulder Widening; Lemus Curve; Sonora Wildlife Crossing; North Sherwin Summit Rehabilitation; Bridgeport Passing Lanes. Mr. Meyers provided a handout detailing each project.

Cedrik Zemitis reported on the following Caltrans projects: Mammoth Pavement Preservation; South Sherwin Summit Rehabilitation; Olancho/Cartago Four-Lane; High Point Curve Realignment; Point Ranch Curve; Lee Vining Rockfall; Crestview Maintenance Station; Crestview Rest Area Rehabilitation (ADA). Mr. Zemitis provided a handout detailing each project.

Other reported Caltrans projects: Mono Basin Gaz Ex; SR 158 Shoulders; Mammoth Lakes Roundabout. A handout was provided detailing each project.

d) **Quarterly update on projects in the Town of Mammoth Lakes**

Action: Received quarterly update from Town of Mammoth Lakes regarding current status of LTC projects.

Peter Bernasconi reported on the following projects for the Town of Mammoth Lakes: Canyon et al Rehab; South Main Street Frontage Road/Chateau Road Rehab; Meridian Reconstruction; OMR Rehab; Lake Mary Bike Path; North Main Frontage Road Rehab; Southerly Airport Access; Welcome Center; Lower Canyon Boulevard Rehab; Main Street Signalization; Laurel Mountain Sidewalks (Caltrans Cooperative Agreement). A staff report was provided detailing each project.

e) **Quarterly update on projects in Mono County**

Action: Received quarterly update from Mono County regarding current status of LTC projects.

Kelly Garcia was unable to attend the meeting. These were the current Mono County projects to be reported on: Lundy Lake Road; June Lake Streetscape; Owens River Road, Owens Gorge Road, and Bridgeport Streets; Lee Vining Streets. A staff report was provided detailing each project. The update on these projects will be carried over until the January meeting.

7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a) **Letter from Tom Hallenbeck regarding transportation projects available for programming and funding through Mono County's RTIP**

This letter outlines a list of transportation projects that are available for programming.

b) **2007/2008 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funding**

The current fiscal year STA funding is down around \$80,000. This is the transit operations money. This money goes directly to ESTA for their operations. Operations need to be looked into to see if this decrease will have an impact on operations. ESTA will be watching and possibly looking into reserves or possibly cutting services. Everyone is just on the watch for now to see what the trend will be.

8) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2008

9) ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 by Chairman Hazard.